Amount due from Tobacco companies to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh

1551. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the huge amount due from the various tobacco companies to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated by Government to ensure that all tobacco companies speedily repay their dues to the farmers; and

(c) what are the details of the measures proposed to stop exploitation of farmers by the tobacco companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Some complaints have been received by the Tobacco Board from growers regarding non-payment of sale value of tobacco by tobacco companies.

(b) Tobacco Board is taking measures to ensure that payments as per Tobacco Leaf Purchase Voucher (TLPV) Regulations are made by the companies. In some cases renewal of registration has been denied to the companies.

(c) As a long term measure it is proposed to introduce compulsory auction system for regulating the sale of virginia tobacco whereby prompt payment would be ensured Initially the auction system is being introduced in Karnataka during the 1984 season.

Reorganisation of the Meteorological Department

1552. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Bhagavantham and Ramanna Committees appointed by Government to review and make suitable recommendations regarding the reorganisation of the Meteorological Department;

(b) what action has been taken by Government thereon;

(c) what are the recommendations which could not be accepted by Government; and

(d) whether Government propose to make any further changes in the composition of the Council for Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATON (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN); (a) After examining the India Meteorological Department and the units under it, the Committee on Organisation of Scientific Research (COSR-Bhagvanthan Committee) has recommended that the Institute of Tropical Meteorology. Poona, the Astrophysical Observatory. Kodaikanal, the Colaba and Alibag Observatories, and the Seismological Division, whose activities are research oriented and mainly Scientific, covering areas outside the main current of the meteorological and hydrological services, should be constituted as autonomous institutions with clearly defined objectives and programmes which are different from but supplementary to those of the India Meteorological Department.

Ramanna Committee has made a large number of recommendations in their Report, copies of which have been supplied to the Parliament Library. To summarise, the Committee has recommended changes in the administrative structure so as to minimise inefficiency caused by adoption of conventional procedures and to enable quick implementation of programmes at all levels. Changes in politics of recruitment of officers, their training and promotion have been recommended so as to improve the manpower input thereby increasing the technical capability of the Department. Improvements in the infrastructure like instrumentation, communication facilities etc. have been suggested. Recommendations have also been made indicating the changes in approach needed so that Meteorological data and forecasts can be more effectively used in the field of agriculture. Similarly improvements needed in the